

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING DR. MICHAEL B. MCCALL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, commend, and congratulate Dr. Michael B. McCall, founding president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), on the event of his retirement. Dr. McCall has led KCTCS all of the 17 years since its creation in 1997, and during that time has overseen the coordination of Kentucky's community colleges, technical institutes, and the University of Kentucky into an education system that is now the largest provider of postsecondary education in the Commonwealth.

Dr. McCall, a strong advocate for a robust community college system even before coming to Kentucky, was recruited to KCTCS due to his knowledge, experience, and personal drive to see students succeed. As both an educator and an administrator, he has overseen the physical expansion of KCTCS and a dramatic upgrade in the system's academic quality. Dr. McCall oversaw 45 capital projects totaling approximately \$500 million, giving 95 percent of all Kentuckians access to a KCTCS institution within a thirty minute drive. This enhanced presence has helped train the skilled workforce that Kentucky needs in order to compete in the modern economy.

Under Dr. McCall's leadership, enrollment at KCTCS increased by nearly 110 percent, contributing to the education of more than 500,000 Kentuckians. Dr. McCall also established or integrated several specialized programs to provide specialized skills for emergency services and some of Kentucky's signature industries, including emergency medical services, fire and rescue science technology, automotive manufacturing technical training, coal mining, and horseracing. The high-skilled, high-paying jobs in these fields will reinforce the readiness of Kentucky communities to guarantee public safety, grow and develop our local industries, and expand Kentucky's competitive advantage.

Dr. McCall's stewardship of KCTCS has provided the Commonwealth of Kentucky with an academic tradition that will benefit generations to come. I congratulate Dr. McCall on a terrific career improving the lives of my fellow Kentuckians as he enters retirement and wish him all the best for whatever the future may hold.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVIE GREER ON HER RETIREMENT AS BARREN COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Judge Davie Greer. After serving 12 years as the Barren County Judge-Executive, Judge Greer will retire at the end of the year. First elected in 2002, Judge Greer was the first woman to serve as the Judge-Executive for Barren County.

Among Judge Greer's many accomplishments in office is the construction of the Barren County Detention Center, the creation of the Barren County Drug Task Force and her work with the Industrial Development Economic Authority of Glasgow-Barren County. Under Judge Greer's leadership, the Barren County Drug Task Force has expanded to cover Edmonson and Allen counties.

Judge Greer has also lead several measures to improve the emergency response resources of Barren County. Likewise, her efforts to enhance and grow the parks and recreation system have improved the quality of life for Barren County's residents.

While Judge Greer may be passing the torch for her elected duties, she vows to remain active in the community. Presently, Judge Greer is the Treasurer of the Salvation Army, a member of the Glasgow Business and Professional Women's Club and a member of the Glasgow-Barren County Chamber of Commerce.

I am grateful for Judge Greer's hard work and dedication to the people of Barren County. I wish her well on her retirement and look forward to continuing to work with her in the community.

IS ACADEMIC FREEDOM THREATENED BY CHINA'S INFLUENCE ON AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week, I convened a hearing that was the first in a series probing the question whether China's 'soft power' educational initiatives are undermining academic freedom at U.S. schools and universities. We see it manifested primarily in two ways. The first is in the building of satellite campuses in China for American universities, where Chinese "rules of engagement" are said to hold sway—in other words, places where no criticism of the government, or promotion of democracy and freedom, is allowed. Second, we see it in the myriad outposts of Chinese soft power that have opened on campuses throughout the United States,

so-called "Confucius Institutes," whose curricula integrates Chinese Government policy on contentious issues such as Tibet and Taiwan and whose hiring practices explicitly exclude Falun Gong practitioners. It should be noted that we are seeing emerging faculty opposition to these Institutes, as well as to the all-too cozy and lucrative arrangements which American universities have with institutions affiliated with the Chinese government.

This prompts us, however, to ask the question: Is American higher education for sale? And, if so, are U.S. colleges and universities undermining the principle of academic freedom—and, in the process, their credibility—in exchange for China's education dollars?

A number of years ago the author James Mann wrote a book called "The China Fantasy," where he recounts how in the 1990s some American business leaders and government officials put forward the "fantasy" that free trade with China would be the catalyst for political liberalism.

I was in China in the early 1990's. Despite the ongoing jailing and executions of dissidents, American businessmen in China told me that if we just trade more, the dictatorship will soon matriculate into a democracy.

As we all now know now, China has failed to democratize, despite increases in the standard of living of its citizens. Political repression is an all-too-common occurrence. Yet U.S. policy toward China continues to overlook abuses of fundamental human rights for the sake of business opportunities and economic interest.

But what about U.S. universities, who often tout their adherence to higher ideals, and equate their "non-profit" status of a badge of good citizenship which puts them above reproach. Perhaps they too are engaged in their own version of a "China fantasy," willing to accept limitations on the very principles and freedoms that are the foundation of the U.S. system of higher education, justifying quiet compromises they would never entertain at home by telling themselves that they are helping bring about change in China.

As Dr. Perry Link brilliantly argued, these compromises often take the form of self-censorship of what universities and faculty teach, who they invite to speak, what fellows they accept in residence. So long as the dragon is not provoked, they think they will be allowed to continue doing their work, slowly changing China from the inside. But are these American universities changing China, or is China changing these American universities?

What is the reason that New York University, for example, terminated the fellowship of the world class human rights advocate and hero, Chen Guangcheng? NYU is one of those prestigious universities for which China built a campus, a satellite of the university in Shanghai. Though the Chinese Government laid out the funds, the transaction involved a moral cost: As certain members of the NYU faculty wrote in a letter to the university's Board of Trustees, the circumstances surrounding the launch of NYU satellite campus

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